



BOROUGH OF GODALMING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1950

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1950.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Godalming.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1950.

Our Birth Rate, though higher than in 1949, is low for no readily ascertainable cause as the level of infant care remains high. This is evidenced by the extremely low infantile mortality rate. Our Death Rate is low and no cause as yet found to be preventable contributes to the mortality of 1950. The town is unquestionably healthy. Notification of infectious disease remains very satisfactorily low and no deleterious feature appears to exist in this pleasant locality.

Your health care remains the chief concern of the Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. BELAM, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

F. A. BELAM, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

P. A. WARNER, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.Assn.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

F. W. CULVER, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., C.Inst.Hsg.

(Both Inspectors also hold the Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute
in Meat and other Foods Inspection.)

Clerks:

Miss E. K. GILBERT, A.C.C.S.

Miss J. STEARNE.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year 1950):
14,860.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1950), according
to rate books: 4,071.

Rateable value: £135,438.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1951:
£538 8s. 8d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births—				{ Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 13.93.
Total ...	207	94	113	
Legitimate	196	86	110	
Illegitimate	11	8	3	
Still Births—				{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 19.32. Still-births Rate per 1,000 population, 0.26.
Legitimate	4	1	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	165	79	86	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 11.10.

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Nil.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	14.49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	15.30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	Nil

The Birth Rate for 1950 is higher than for 1949 though a considerable drop from the 15.29 for 1948. It is 13.93 as against 12.45 for 1949. It compares very badly with the birth rates for England and Wales or the smaller and larger towns. It is very difficult to know to what to ascribe this low rate as the same conditions of overcrowding and lack of housing facilities naturally apply equally to all the other towns. It is definitely not infant care which is at fault. Our infant mortality is the lowest it has ever been and is very considerably below any of the general infantile mortality

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1950. Provisional Figures.

England & Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.10	—	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.09	—	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns (Resid't Populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000— 1931 Census) ...	16.7	0.38	11.6	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.10	—	1.6	29.4
London ...	17.8	0.36	11.8	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.07	—	1.0	26.3
GODALMING ...	13.93	0.26	11.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.49

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows :

per 1,000 Total Births ... Abortion with Sepsis—0.09, Other Abortion—0.05, Complication of Pregnancy and Delivery—0.54, Sepsis of Childbirth and the Puerperium—0.03, Other Complications of the Puerperium—0.15.

Godalming Deaths in 1950.

57

Cause of Death	Age at Death												Total	R G. Total				
	Under 1		1-2		2-5		5-15		15-25		25-45				45-65		65 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Malignant Neoplasm—																		
Stomach ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Lung, Bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Other sites ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Leukæmia, Alukæmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	
Hypertension with Heart Disease...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Other Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Other Circulatory Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Congenital Malformation ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Other defined & ill-defined Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
All other Accidents ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Totals ...	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	4	3	24	27	47	52	79	
																	86	

rates. The only explanation appears to be a deliberate limitation of families though why this should apply to Godalming especially I am at a loss to explain. However, we do save the few babies we have.

The Death Rate is low, much lower than that of 1949 and lower than that of the country as a whole or the smaller towns, and much lower than that of the larger towns. Causes of death are much as before: heart disease, coronary or other, and vascular lesions. Cancer as usual took its toll, but no disease so far recognised as preventable was responsible for mortality. Sixty per cent. of the deaths were persons over 65.

Of the infant deaths there were only three, and these were due to pneumonia in a child one month old, to asphyxia and acute congestive heart failure in a child who lived six hours, and to asphyxia due to inhaled vomit in a child of four months. There was no neonatal death found in local or transferred death returns though one is debited to Godalming in the returns of the Registrar General.

These returns also include two deaths of females from pulmonary tuberculosis when no sign of these deaths can be found in any return or tuberculosis register. The same applies to a death ascribed to gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** All pathological work is done for the Borough at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Water samples are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** The work done in the Borough by the Godalming Division of the British Red Cross Society for the County Council, using two full time drivers, and attendants acting in a voluntary capacity.

Work done by the British Red Cross Society personnel and ambulances was as follows:—

Number of calls (including 91 accidents)	...	1,395
Number of miles travelled	... ..	28,882
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fetes, etc.)	... ..	2,277

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** Three midwives serving under the Surrey County Council's scheme of financial assistance, care for the needs of the Borough.

The Nurses of the Godalming Nursing and Child Welfare Association carried out the following work during 1950:—

Number of District Cases ...	...	...	...	542
Number of District Visits ...	...	...	...	5,320
Number of Midwifery Cases ...	...	...	...	30
Number of Maternity Cases (with Doctor) ...	...	...	...	5
Number of Midwifery and Maternity Visits ...	...	...	...	713
Number of Ante-Natal Visits ...	...	...	...	280
Number of Casual Visits ...	...	...	...	278

(Visits are entered as casual when no actual nursing is done.)

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** The Surrey County Council Clinics are as follows:—

At Church Room, Godalming.

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Dental Clinic: Mondays, 10 to 12 and 2 to 4 p.m.
Thursdays, 10 to 12 and 2 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 to 12 noon.

Child Welfare Centre: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.

School Treatment Centres—

General Medical Clinics: Every Friday, 10 a.m.

Eye Clinic: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Fridays (School children), 10 a.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays (Children 1 to 5 years),
2 to 4 p.m.

At St. Mark's Hall, Ockford Ridge, Godalming.

Welfare Clinic: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

At Milford Sanatorium.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: 1st and 3rd Fridays, 2 to 6 p.m.

**At South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board
Chest Clinic,
64, Epsom Road, Guildford.**

Chest Clinic:

Mondays, 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

All cases seen by appointment.

At Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.

Venereal Diseases:

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

Females: Mondays, 2 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, 9.30 to 11 a.m.

(e) Hospital Provision.

(1) The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford offers 229 beds. An average of 203 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 9,671 out-patients made 34,152 attendances. The Hospital carries a staff embracing specialists in all branches of medicine and surgery, including radiology and physiotherapy.

(2) St. Luke's Hospital offers 404 beds which include 58 maternity beds and 62 maternity cots. Of these beds, 54 are reserved for patients treated by radiotherapy, the rest are devoted to general surgery and gynaecology, pediatrics, ear, nose and throat, eyes, neurology, dermatology and geriatrics. The Hearing Aid Diagnostic Centre of the Area is also centred at this hospital.

(3) St. Thomas' Hospital, Hydestile, Godalming. This hospital has only 136 beds at present and most of the patients come from London, although the admission list does include a reasonable proportion of patients from Godalming.

There is not a whole time emergency service for road casualties and surgical or medical emergencies, although emergency cases are admitted on occasion at the particular request of the doctor as a matter of urgency.

(f) Maternity and Nursing Homes. Only one registered Nursing Home is now taking patients. This is the Mount Alvernia Nursing Home of the Franciscan Sisters, and it offers 15 beds for all purposes. It has been exempted from the provisions of the National Health Service Act.

(f) **Mass Radiography.** The South West Metropolitan Regional Mass Radiography Unit visited Godalming from 19th to 21st September, 1950, and during that time examined the following:—

	Male.	Female.
Total Number X-rayed	658	743
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (active) ...	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (inactive) ...	9	19
Non-Tuberculous abnormalities ...	21	19
Failed to attend for large film ...	1	—

Clean Food Campaign. Owing to the proximity of Godalming to Guildford, where an extremely successful Hygienic Food Traders' Guild was set up, it was thought most properly that a Guild on the same lines should be formed without delay in Godalming.

The President of the Godalming Chamber of Commerce specifically requested the Medical Officer of Health to explain this scheme to a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, to which the Chief Sanitary Inspector was invited, also the Chairman of the Health Committee. It was, however, at once apparent that the Chamber was opposed to the formation of such a Guild. Although every effort was made to explain the mutual benefits both to trader, public and Health Department, these pleas fell upon deaf ears.

The Chamber of Commerce expressed themselves as firmly opposed to the idea of a Food Hygiene Guild, although it was carefully explained that such a Guild was merely formed to implement, voluntarily, provisions already laid down in various enactments, and which could be enforced.

Under these circumstances, the meeting of all Food Traders which had been envisaged was abandoned, as it was considered that the opposition of the Chamber of Commerce would counteract any propaganda especially directed to this end at such a meeting.

This is a most deplorable situation and one which is very difficult to understand. It is, however, completely clear that it now remains for the Health Department to enforce by law every legal requirement directed towards the production and sale of clean food, and this is the policy now being pursued.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases. Cases are sent to the hospitals at Ottershaw and Farnham for treatment as required. Admissions are as shewn in the table:—

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	22	16	—
Pneumonia ...	27	—	12
Whooping Cough	21	—	—
Measles ...	10	5	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Gastro enteritis ...	—	2	1
	<hr/> 82 <hr/>	<hr/> 25 <hr/>	<hr/> 13 <hr/>

Scarlet Fever. Twenty-two notifications of this disease were received; of these, 16 were admitted to hospital. All these cases were mild and hospital admission is generally due to lack of isolation facilities in the home and possibility of spread of infection.

The decrease in severity of this disease during the last thirty years is very noteworthy. My recollection of the severe "septic" scarlet cases which I had under my care in a Liverpool hospital in 1919, where not infrequently the result was fatal, is very clear. Year by year the severity has diminished and the diagnosis become more difficult in view of the mildness of the disease. A few years later antitoxic treatment was introduced and, while that was helpful, the new drugs, M. and B. and Penicillin, are much more satisfactory and rapid in action. So that even if a case at first seemed serious, penicillin would quickly reduce it to mildness. Practically all the cases in 1950 did not cause infection to others, which proves that natural immunity is now high and that preventive measures are satisfactory.

Whooping Cough and Measles were low in incidence and caused no trouble; five out of the ten measles notified were sent into hospital. This is generally due to expert nursing being required for lung complications such as broncho-pneumonia.

Poliomyelitis. One case only was notified in the latter part of the year. This was a girl of 3 who was at first treated in a general hospital and later transferred to an isolation hospital. She had paresis of the left quadriceps muscle. A month after, she was walking with a limp and was obtaining orthopaedic treatment, but later she recovered completely.

There were two other suspected cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	—	6	12	1	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	1	2	7	—	—	1	3	3	7
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	5	1	9	—	—	1	2	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	1	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	2	2	8	10	36	2	—	2	7	4	7

Summary of Notifications of Cases and Contacts of Infectious Diseases received from Schools.

Disease	Total	Central	Bridge Road Jun. Mixed and Infants	Moss Lane Girls and Infants	Busbridge	Farncombe, George Road	County Grammar	St. John St. Jun. Mixed and Infants	Raglan Nursery	Wharf Day Nursery
Measles ...	14	5	—	3	—	5	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	22	5	3	1	2	8	—	2	1	—
Chickenpox ...	49	5	1	5	16	14	—	1	—	7
Mumps ...	87	6	32	16	—	19	—	13	—	1
Jaundice ...	6	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	—	4	1	—	15	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	*1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	199	21	41	27	18	66	1	16	1	8

*Contact of case.

Diphtheria was once again conspicuous by its absence. The disease has very definitely been conquered by the active policy of immunisation which renders an epidemic impossible. This disease only a few years ago was fatal to any case who was not treated immediately with adequate doses of antitoxin. I sincerely hope that the public realise what a boon regular immunisation has been and the number of children's lives it has saved, and the still greater number of children saved from a very painful illness from which recovery might well leave paralysis in some part of the body. In Godalming during 1950 diphtheria immunisation was continued and now the numbers of children dealt with is shewn in the tables:—

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December, 1950	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Pop- ulation, 1950	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1950	9	1111	578 (52.04%)
1	1949	118		
2	1948	138		
3	1947	157		
4	1946	156		
5—9	1945—1941	586	2316	1092 (47.15%)
10—15	1940—1936	506		
Total, under 15	—	1670	3427	1670 (48.71%)

Number re-Immunised, 1946—1950: 1224

It will be noted that the percentage of children immunised has dropped seriously from previous years. This is very unfortunate, for only when immunised children have reached a percentage of about 70 of total children, can one really guarantee that no epidemic is possible. Surely it is worth while for every parent to see that every child is protected. If a disease can be prevented why not prevent it? I hope that 1951 figures will shew an improvement as I do not want an epidemic of diphtheria to be necessary to shew parents that immunisation is a good thing.

Vaccination. During 1950 there were 207 children born in Godalming, and of these 109, just over half, were vac-

inated. This shews a very great improvement, because generally the level of infantile vaccination has dropped to 25 per cent. or below. Godalming parents must therefore be congratulated on their foresight in accepting vaccination for their babies. Last year's percentage was about 33 per cent. in Godalming.

In addition to these infantile vaccinations forty other older persons were vaccinated during the year. There were three children each of 1 and 2 and up to an adult of 82. Adult vaccinations are generally persons who are going abroad when a recent certificate of vaccination is demanded.

Tuberculosis. There were 115 cases of this disease on register at the end of the year: 8 more than in 1949. As before, more female cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded than male. Ten new female cases were notified and one non-pulmonary, as against six males, of whom two were transfers.

There were two deaths during the year (one due to a road accident). One case was removed from the Register as recovered and five cases left the district.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5	—	—	1*	—	...	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	2	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	2	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
20-25	2	3†	—	—	...	1‡	—	—	—
25-35	2†	2†	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
35-45	2*	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	1*	—	—	...	—	1	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
	6	10	1*	—	...	1	1	—	—

*Transfer. †Including 1 Transfer. ‡By road accident.

A special survey of the housing conditions of the 81 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on the Registers revealed an improvement in the situation since the survey of 1948:—

Forty-one cases had their own bedroom.

Forty cases shared a bedroom, but in seventeen of these a separate bedroom was available.

Eleven cases were in Sanatoria at time of survey.

In twelve cases an extra bedroom was desirable, but none of these houses was overcrowded, having regard to the Housing standard provided by the Housing Act, 1936.

Six families, in each of which one member was tubercular, were re-housed by the Housing Committee during the year.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of Routine and other Inspection Work carried out.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE.

Housing Inspections and Re-Inspections (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	979
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc. ...	596
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests	139
Meat Inspections	109
Bakehouses	104
Dairies, Milk-shops and Milk-stores	10
Factories, Work-places and Outworkers Premises	177
Food Shops and places where food is prepared and stored	357
Ice Cream Premises	49
Foodstuffs for condemnation	119
Offensive Trades Premises	12
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	76
Piggeries	9
Public and Private Conveniences	41
Council's Hostels	2
Investigations under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	107
Petroleum and Carbide Acts	21
Infectious Disease Notifications and Prevention Acts (including Disinfections)	75
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	14
Public Health Act, 1936 (Smoke Abatement)...	21
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (involving inspection, baiting and re-inspection of 88 sewer manholes)	1,533
Sampling of—	
Water Supplies	10
Milk Supplies	20
Ice Cream	25
	<hr/>
	4,605

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	36
Informal Notices	...	...	436
			<hr/>
Total Notices served	...	...	472
Complied with	...	...	435
			<hr/>
Not complied with at 31.12.50			37
			<hr/>

Factories Act, 1937.

(Information required by the Secretary of State.)

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES UNDER THE ACT.

Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occup. Pros.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	59	4	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	87	2	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	31	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		177	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
*Other Offences ...	1	—	1	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> —

(*Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.)

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply throughout the supply area has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

No new sources of supply were brought into operation during the year.

Samples of treated and untreated water have been taken quarterly by the Health Department from the Borough Road and Ockford Works sources. Laboratory reports on these have proved all samples to be satisfactory, bacteriologically and chemically, apart from the usual traces of iron, particularly in the Ockford samples.

Bacteriological examinations have also been made on samples collected quarterly from various premises in the water area within and without the Borough, by the Water Department. All these were reported upon as of satisfactory bacterial purity.

In addition, reports on twenty samples of water taken by the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of Hambledon Rural District and Guildford Rural District—within their respective areas—all proved eminently satisfactory.

Apart from these, a few samples taken in the Bramley (Hambledon Rural District) area did not reach the required standard of bacterial purity. The reason was found to be due to disturbance caused by certain alterations to mains in the area. The mains in question were thereupon thoroughly chlorinated and subsequent sampling proved that the trouble had been satisfactorily dealt with.

Generally speaking no form of contamination occurred in the water supply during the year.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Corporation's mains is 7,006, six of which are supplied by standpipe, and the estimated population involved is 26,576 and 21 respectively.

New mains extensions during the year were:—

26 yards of 9in. and 28 yards of 8in. distributing and pumping mains to complete the new Priors Field Water Tower, and

1,013 yards of 6in. distributing main from this Tower in Hurtmore Road and Summers Lane.

86 yards of 4in. main for Charterhouse.

Guildford Rural District:

46 yards of 4in. main extension for Shackleford Nurseries.

Hambledon Rural District:

349 yards of 3in. main: 77 yards to replace old 2in. main to Milford School and 272 yards for new housing site at Bramley.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewer linking up Milford and Witley and Milford Sanatoria with the Godalming Sewerage System commenced in 1948, was connected to the Borough sewerage system during the year and is operating satisfactorily.

The disposal of sewage at the Unstead Works by land treatment and filtration continues to be carried out.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution of the River Wey were received and no pollution detected during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of cesspools and pail closets remaining in the Borough is as follows:—

Cesspools draining houses: 31 (23 no sewers available).

Pail closets attached to cottages: 19 (15 no sewers available).

Arrangements for emptying cesspools devolve upon occupiers of premises, who have to rely upon the adjoining Rural District Councils for this service, as Godalming does not undertake to empty cesspools in its area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of house refuse and salvage was continued as in previous years.

Controlled tipping was continued at the Quarry at the entrance to Aaron's Hill Estate. It is the intention of the Council that this area, when completed, shall be covered with soil and seeded with grass to provide an open space.

During the year 59 dustbins to premises were found to be defective; these were renewed by owners and occupiers of premises under Notice from the Department.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections were made in cases where complaints arose or nuisances existed. In no case was it found necessary to take formal action, occupiers responding satisfactorily to informal requests for remedy of defects, etc.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Occupiers of factories, workplaces, etc., generally complied with the provisions of the law in keeping their output of smoke down to the minimum.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No infestations or re-infestations were reported or detected during the year.

In response to complaints, several infestations of flies and wasps were dealt with, using a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Seven of the eight private slaughterhouses in the Borough remain closed. The remaining slaughterhouse is used for emergency slaughtering only, with the approval of the Local Food Control Officer. All normal slaughtering for Godalming butchers is carried out in the Government controlled slaughterhouses at Guildford.

Four slaughtermen in the Borough still hold licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints were received or nuisances detected in respect of the conduct of the various trade processes carried on at the one Tannery remaining in the Borough. Trade refuse was removed to farms, etc., without nuisance.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

With the coming into force of the Prevention of Damage By Pests Act, 1949, on 31st March, 1950, every Local Authority became responsible for rodent control in its area. Consequently, duties formerly carried out in Godalming Borough by the Surrey County Council, had to be taken over by the Town Council.

The Health Committee considered a report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the provisions of the Act, and decided to appoint him as Rodent Control Officer, and also engage a part-time operator to carry out the work. The Operator appointed commenced duties on the 11th April, but resigned almost immediately for a full-time appointment. Another applicant was thereupon appointed, and commenced work on 24th April—half-time on cleansing duties and half on rodent control work, for an experimental period of twelve months.

The work carried out by the operator for the eight months under review is summarised as follows:—

No. of complaints and infestations detected	...	189
No. of visits and re-visits involved	... ..	458
No. of visits and re-visits necessitating treatments		773
No. of premises fumigated for insect pests	...	20

All infestations were of minor character.

No survey work as envisaged by the Act was possible in the time allotted for this work.

In the matter of charges, the Council decided to make a fixed charge of 7/6 per hour for disinfecting work on business premises but to offer a free service for dwelling-houses in common with the majority of the local authorities in the County. This has had the desired effect of encouraging householders to report infestations, however small, to the Department, but it has also been difficult for the operator to deal with these complaints promptly under the present part-time arrangement. It is envisaged he will be required full-time during 1951.

Under the Act it is the duty of the Local Authority to deal specifically with their own premises and undertakings, including the systematic testing and treatment of sewers. An annual inspection and test of ten per cent. of sewer manholes (approximately 90 manholes) has been made over the past three years and a further maintenance treatment was carried out in 1950. Of 88 manholes test-baited "takes" were recorded in 15. Treatment was applied to these, with consequent reduction in the minor infestations found.

Several proprietors of business premises preferred to enter into annual contract with the Council for regular inspection and treatment of their premises. This arrangement has proved most effective, as the majority of the premises concerned are liable to re-infestation by reason of the nature of the business carried on.

Several complaints received in regard to other insect pests were investigated and treatments carried out on payment of cost.

New Housing.

Of the 66 new houses erected during 1950, 53 were built by the Town Council on the Aaron's Hill Estate and 13 by local builders for owner-occupiers. In addition, 8 private

houses were converted into 17 flats, making a total of 83 units of accommodation provided during the year.

The number of families re-housed by the Town Council during the year was 83. At the close of 1950 there were 799 applications for houses on the Council's waiting list.

Since the end of the war and up to the close of 1950 the Town Council has erected 178 dwelling-houses.

Existing Housing.

One hundred and seventy-seven privately owned houses were inspected during the year under the Housing and Public Health Acts: the majority in response to tenants' complaints, where Owners had neglected or refused to carry out essential repairs. In some cases Owners had stated they found it impossible, owing to high costs, to execute even urgent repairs, and in four such cases, involving 21 cottages, the Town Council were compelled to invite tenders and do the work in default, as provided by the Housing Act, 1936.

The basements of two houses were closed as unfit for human habitation, under a written Undertaking from the Owner's Agents. The main reason for closure was excessive dampness which could not be remedied except at prohibitive cost.

One old house was reported unfit for human habitation, and as the cost of rendering it fit for re-occupation was considered by the Council's Officers to be unreasonable, a Demolition Order was imposed. The Owner, however, elected to carry out the necessary work and an Undertaking was accepted by the Council. The work was in hand at the close of the year.

Seven old cottages remain "closed" as unfit for human habitation under written Undertakings from the Owners.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

1.	By the Town Council	...	...	...	53
2.	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	13
3.	(a) Number of houses converted into flats	...	...	...	8
	(b) Number of flats resulting from (a)	...	...	...	17

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	177
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	207
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3. Number of separate tenements found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	177

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	161
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	33
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices—	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	21

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices— | | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owner | | | | | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | 1 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. Four distributors of milk are registered in the Borough. Two of these hold Dealers' Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and Pasteurised Milk; the remaining two are licensed to sell Sterilized Milk. Premises are inspected periodically to ensure compliance with the conditions of their licences.

Ten samples of milk were taken from Distributors for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:—

- 4 Tuberculin Tested (Certified).
- 1 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).
- 3 Pasteurised.
- 2 Sterilised.

All passed the statutory tests for their particular grades and were reported as satisfactory by the laboratory.

Ice-Cream. There are now 37 premises in the Borough registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: one for manufacture, storage and sale, and 36 for storage and sale only.

All premises are inspected to ensure strict cleanliness in the handling of this popular commodity; also as to source of supply, refrigeration equipment, etc. These conditions have to be complied with before any application for registration is considered.

Seventeen samples of ice cream were taken from registered ice-cream retailers for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:—

- 12 were classified Provisional Grade 1 (including 1 "iced lolly").
- 3 were classified Provisional Grade 2 (1 subsequently to Grade 1).
- 2 were classified Provisional Grade 3 (1 subsequently to Grade 1).

Steps were taken to endeavour to bring the three remaining samples (Grades 2 and 3) up to Grade 1. Only further sampling will prove whether such improvement has been effected and maintained.

Meat and Other Foods. Slaughtering of meat for Godalming continued to be carried out at Guildford under the Government's centralised slaughtering scheme.

Local butchers' premises and other foodshops and stores were inspected for cleanliness in storage, handling and sale of food, provision of sanitary and washing facilities, etc. The various Acts and Regulations controlling such premises appeared to be generally well observed, and Notices served for remedy of defects were complied with satisfactorily.

The weekly removal of trade refuse from shop premises by the Town Council was satisfactorily performed during the year and presented no particular problems. Traders responded promptly to requests to renew receptacles found defective, or instal additional refuse bins for the purpose.

A considerable quantity of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned during the year,

comprising:—

133½	lbs. Poultry and Rabbits.
88	lbs. Tongue, Ham and Bacon.
385	lbs. Beef, Mutton, Corned Beef and Sausages.
177	tins Meat, Rabbit, Soup, etc.
14	lbs. Ham and Pork Trimmings and Liver.
311	lbs. Fresh Fish and 54 tins of Fish.
399	dozen Eggs.
122	lbs. Butter and Cheese.
131	tins of Milk, etc.
87	tins of Vegetables and 24 jars of Pickles.
101	tins and jars of Fruit.
9	tins and jars of Jam and Marmalade.
274	packets of Wheat Flakes and "Pom."

Clean Food Campaign.

During the latter part of 1949 and early part of 1950, the whole of the food premises in the Borough, numbering 124, were inspected in detail and conditions found recorded under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and other enactments. These comprised the following premises:

	Mixed Trades.	Single Trades.
Butchers	1	11
Bakers	10	4
Fishmongers	3	4
Fried Fish	1	3
Grocery and Provisions ...	46	6
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	17	10
Confectioners	53	6
Restaurants and Cafes ...	7	14
	<hr/> 138	<hr/> 58

Thirty-seven Confectioners, Cafes, etc., are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

Generally it was found the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were being observed in part, but there appeared an appreciable lack of wash-basins and hot water provision for the personal cleanliness of staffs. Cleanly handling of food cannot be expected unless these facilities are provided by proprietors of food premises. Some shortage of water-closet accommodation in certain cases was evident, in addition to other defects requiring remedy under the Shops Acts and Orders.

The more serious deficiencies were taken up with the Shopkeepers concerned and Notices served in respect of 26 premises. All except six of these have been complied with and the premises consequently improved. Two are in hand, and four not yet complied with.

The twenty-eight public houses and other licensed premises in the Borough were also inspected and with one exception all had reasonably good facilities, including hot water, for the proper cleansing of glasses, etc. Sanitary accommodation in six premises was unsuitable and/or inadequate, but this would appear to be a matter for the Licensing Authorities.

The Model Byelaws for the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air" were adopted by the Town Council and came into force on the 9th October, 1950. All food traders were supplied with a free copy by the Town Council. It is hoped that traders and their employees will realise their respective responsibilities in these matters and co-operate with the Health Department in its endeavours to attain and maintain a high standard of cleanliness in food premises in Godalming.

Adulteration and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Surrey County Council administers those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, within the Borough, dealing with sampling and analysis of articles of food, etc., for the detection of adulteration, deterioration, etc.

The County Medical Officer of Health reports that the following samples were taken in the Borough and analysed during 1950:—

Formal: 33 samples of milk and 2 of sausages.

Informal: 7 samples of milk, 2 of icing preparations, 4 of pepper, and 1 each of confectionery, canned crab, gelatine, jam, prawns, vinegar and sausages. Also one sample of each of the following drugs: Cold capsules, cold cure and nasal inhalant.

Result: One formal sample of milk and one of sausages were found to be either "adulterated" or "irregular." One informal sample of vinegar was found to be improperly labelled.

There were no prosecutions or convictions.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1950 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	1,419
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	445
						<hr/> 1,864

Found “adulterated” or “irregular”—

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	139
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	37
						<hr/> 176

There were 16 prosecutions involving various articles of food and drugs; resulting in 7 convictions in respect of milk and 1 in respect of sausages.

Of the eight remaining summonses, one milk case against the farmer was dismissed; the other seven being brought against cowmen, who were all convicted.

